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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CIAE-00	SJK-01	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	FBO-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00
	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-02
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01	SR-01
	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	USSS-00
	/062W						

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P 051821Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0500
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 00271

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, NS, VZ
SUBJECT: SURINAMESE GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS ATTEMPTED COUP
IN VENEZUELA

1. VICE PRESIDENT JULES R. AJODHIA SENT A LETTER TO
VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ ON FEBRUARY 4 CONDEMNING THE
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ATTEMPTED COUP IN VENEZUELA. THE TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME WAS
PROFOUNDLY SHOCKED AND DISMAYED TO LEARN OF THE
DESPICABLE ATTEMPT BY A GROUP OF SOLDIERS OF THE
VENEZUELAN ARMY TO VIOLENTLY OVERTHROW YOUR
DEMOCRATICALLY CHOSEN GOVERNMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SURINAME ARE FILLED WITH
HORROR AND CONDEMN THIS WANTON ACT OF LAWLESSNESS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 24 JUL 2006 200503206

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IT IS THE HOPE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAME THAT UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP LAW AND ORDER MAY BE FULLY AND DURABLY RESTORED IN YOUR COUNTRY AND I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE YOU OF THE SOLIDARITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SURINAME WITH THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA.
END TEXT

2. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MET FEB. 5 IN AN EMERGENCY SESSION AND ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ALONG SIMILAR LINES. DURING THE DEBATE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING NEW FRONT COALITION AND THE OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE (DA '91) UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNED THE COUP ATTEMPT, POINTING TO THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON SURINAME'S DEVELOPMENT OF THE TWO MILITARY COUPS SINCE 1980. SEVERAL SPEAKERS PRAISED CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ'S ROLE AS A CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY IN THE REGION. OTHERS DREW LESSONS FROM THE UNITED RESOLVE OF THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE IN REJECTING THE COUP ATTEMPT. HOWEVER, THE PARLIAMENTARY LEADER OF THE PRO-MILITARY NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP), JULES

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WIJDENBOSCH, COULD NOT BRING HIMSELF TO DEPLORE THE FAILED VENEZUELAN COUP -- OR EVEN TO USE THE TERM "COUP" -- DESPITE INTERJECTIONS FROM NEW FRONT STALWART OTMAR RODGERS OF "DO YOU CONDEMN IT?" WIJDENBOSCH INSTEAD LAMELY REPEATED HIS PARTY'S "SOLIDARITY WITH THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE" AND EMPHASIZED THE DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH ALLEGEDLY SET THE STAGE FOR THE COUP ATTEMPT.

3. DISSIDENT NDP'ER FRANK PLAYFAIR, NOW THE HEAD OF HIS OWN TWO-PERSON PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOLLOWING A RECENT SPLIT WITH THE NDP OVER THE ISSUE OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN POLITICS, TOOK A TWO-PRONGED APPROACH, EMPHATICALLY REJECTING VIOLENT ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW LEGALLY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENTS FROM WHATEVER QUARTER BUT POINTING TO THE DANGERS OF AN IMF-WORLD BANK ECONOMIC STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM, WHICH PLAYFAIR SAID HAD LED TO "IMPOVERISHMENT" IN VENEZUELA AND WOULD DO THE SAME IF IMPLEMENTED IN SURINAME. HOPE

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